

Mute

written by

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INT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

In a dull room, a whiteboard scribbled with formulas and graphs, two students are seated. BECCA has an **elephant mask** on, and MARK has a **zebra mask** on.

MARK closes his laptop.

MARK  
Lets take a break?

BECCA  
And do what?

MARK  
We can play something...

BECCA  
What about the assignment?

MARK  
We are almost done aren't we? We  
can finish off the rest tomorrow my  
brain is so cooked right now.

BECCA  
Fair. But don't we need more people  
to play?

MARK  
That's true, let me text my friends  
and ask them to come over.

BECCA  
But I don't know any of them...

MARK  
Well...now you will

Mark looks at her and smiles assuringly.

CUT TO:

EXT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

A bunch of students with their backpacks, carrying some food and drinks in their hand with their **zebra masks** on their faces knock the door.

BECCA and MARK look at the door with a see-through window, MARK smiles and goes to open the door.

MARK

You guys were pretty fast huh?

FRIEND#1

We were just around the corner  
so...

FRIEND#2

(chewing on something)  
What are you upto?

FRIEND#3

(Screams looking at the  
board)  
HOLY SHIT! PLEASE DON'T TELL ME  
THIS IS CALC 2!!! PLEASE

MARK

Yeah lol! But Becca is really good  
at it and she helps me out with all  
my assignments. By the way everyone  
meet Becca, and Becca meet my  
friends.

Everybody waves their hand awkwardly and Becca waves back.

FRIEND#4

I was just gonna ask who is the  
elephant in the room!

MARK

That's not funny! I am so sorry  
Becca

MARK and his friends break into talking in their own  
language, Becca doesn't understand what they are talking. She  
can just hear few words in English. Everything else is just  
chatter with *zebra sounds*.

BECCA

What does that mean?

MARK

Ahh nothing, its just something  
very dumb

BECCA

Its fine tell me

MARK

It wouldn't make sense in English  
its like an inside joke.

The sound of the chatter keeps growing in her head to the point where her elephant ears can no longer take it.

BEAT.

She stands up, collects her items, packs her bag and leaves without saying anything to Mark.

EXT. COMMON HALL - NIGHT

There are round tables, each table has 3-4 people belonging to a specific animal group. They are all chatting in their own language and the hall is filled with sounds of chatter echoing.

Becca enters the hall on her way to find the exit. She looks at all the tables and sees every animal has their own group and are happy with themselves doing their thing.

The sounds in her ears intensify. She closes her ears and the bottle in her hand drops.

BEAT.

Everyone stops talking, lift their heads and look at her. She gets too conscious and runs away from there.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUILDING ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Becca is alone waiting for a cab outside the entrance. She receives a call from Mark, she cuts it. Mark approaches her and sees she is not picking his calls.

MARK

Becca! Why are you not picking my calls?

BECCA

I didn't know you called...

MARK

Stop lying! I just saw you ignoring my call through the window.

Becca struggles to maintain eye contact and looks down.

MARK (CONT'D)

Becca, tell me what happened. Why did you leave?

BECCA  
Hmm...its nothing

MARK  
Its fine say it

BECCA  
(mockingly)  
It wouldn't make sense in  
English...

MARK  
Wait what do you mean? Okay I get  
it now...

BECCA  
You know we all are not from the  
same place right? I don't know your  
language and all of you chose to  
speak in your language while I was  
sitting there. No one cared about  
whether I was understanding  
anything.

MARK  
But...Becca...it is instinctive, it  
just happens when we all see each  
other. We don't do it on purpose, it  
just happens...

BECCA  
I get it...and I couldn't demand  
you all to talk the way I want to  
so I just left...I didn't feel  
wanted there...

MARK  
You know what, come with me I have  
an idea

BECCA  
Mark, its fine, you go ahead. I  
will see you tomorrow in the  
morning.

MARK  
Becca, just come!

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Mark grabs a marker and writes on board, "DUMB CHARADES (NO TALKING!)"

BEAT.

He rolls a couple of chits on to the table and each person picks them. Becca picks it up too.

BEAT.

Each person is enacting, everyone is laughing including Becca.

Becca opens her chit and it reads "ELEPHANT"

Becca acts out the word pointing to all of Mark's friends and then pointing to herself. Asking who is she through her actions.

Everyone in unison says  
"NEW FRIEND!"

Becca looks at Mark. They both share a glance and smile at each other.

THE END